



GWH JMUN

2025

BACKGROUND GUIDE

UNEP



Agenda: Assessing Global Progress
Towards Achieving the Sustainable
Development Goals by 2030

Freeze Date: April 2021



RULES OF PROCEDURE

The RoP for this committee shall be the same as any conventional UN committee, with certain deviations from the same which we shall elaborate on below. The RoP followed is similar to the UNA for USA procedure prevalently followed in the Indian Model UN circuit.

The procedure is as follows:

Roll Call: The committee will begin with a roll call, which is similar to attendance being taken. A roll call is taken to establish a quorum (minimum number of members required to begin a session) for the committee. The quorum for the ACD shall be 1/3rd of the total strength.

Setting the Agenda: This is the first step to starting the discussion in the committee – setting the agenda before opening the debate session. It mostly takes place if there are 2 or more agendas to be discussed in the committee. In case the committee has only one agenda to discuss, the agenda is adopted automatically without any motion, which is the case at this MUN.



RULES OF PROCEDURE

RULES GOVERNING DEBATE

Motions: Various motions can be raised at the MUN Conference to formally regulate the debate and systematically keep the flow of debate.

ROLL CALL

Attendance shall be conducted at the beginning of every session when a delegate raises a motion to Roll Call after which every delegate in the committee must vote either "Present" or "Present and Voting".

1. **Present And Voting:** The delegate is not entitled to abstention on substantive votes.
2. **Present:** A Delegate that is declared "Present" shall vote in favor, against, or may abstain on any substantive matter.

Note: The difference is only relevant on Day 2, for substantive voting upon the proposed resolutions. Once you declare yourself as "Present and Voting", you are not allowed to revert back to "Present".

MOTION EXPLANATION AND PURPOSE:

- **Motion to Open Debate/ Begin Committee Session:** This is the first motion of the session to start the formal proceedings of the committee, and commence debate.
- **Motion to Open General Speakers' List:** This is the first step to establish the Formal Debate on the agenda which has been set up for the committee. This list is non-exhaustible and closes after the closing procedure of the committee.
- **Motion to begin Moderated Caucus:** This motion is raised to focus the discussion on a specific topic within the mandate of the agenda. The purpose of this motion is to discuss various important aspects of the agenda in detail.



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- Motion to begin Unmoderated Caucus: This is a form of informal debate which is not moderated by the Dias Members. In this type of debate, there are no formal proceedings that are followed. It is raised for a particular amount of time.
- Motion to begin Voting Procedures: After the amendments are discussed and voted on, the resolution is put to a vote. The Member States who voted 'Present and Voting' during the roll call may vote YES or NO on the resolution. The member states who voted 'Present' may ABSTAIN from voting on the resolution. The Observer Nations do not get voting rights on the resolution.
- Motion to Adjourn the Session/ Close Debate: This motion is raised at the end of the committee session to suspend debate until the next meeting, or to end the debate all together at the end of the conference. It is passed on a simple majority or at the discretion of the Chairperson.

GENERAL SPEAKERS LIST (GSL):

The General Speakers List is opened following a motion raised by a delegate and the subsequent approval of the Chair.

The Chair then recognizes a list of speakers who wish to speak in the GSL and will have to sum up their country's stance on the agenda briefly.

The default individual speaker's time is set at 90 seconds, which may be altered by raising a motion to alter the time. If the delegate has not used all the time that has been allotted, the delegate may yield the remaining time to comments, and questions, to another delegate or the Chair.



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1. The delegate is not allowed to respond in retaliation to the comments made in his/ her speech.
2. Yield to questions allows any member of the committee to ask questions on the speech made by the delegate to which the delegate would be allowed to answer. Follow-up questions will be allowed only at the discretion of the EB.
3. Yield to another delegate allows another delegate to use the remaining time. This time can be used by the other delegate to reinforce the points made by the previous delegate.
4. Yield to the Chair simply means that the Chair would absorb the remaining time.

MODERATED CAUCUS

A Moderated Caucus is a debate format where delegates make short speeches on specific topics. These specific topics are sub-agendas to the main agenda set by the committee. Delegates raise a motion to start a Moderated Caucus for a specific time period after which the Chair would recognize speakers to speak in the Caucus.

UNMODERATED CAUCUS

An Unmoderated Caucus, as the name suggests, is not moderated by the Dais. Rules of the formal debate are suspended and delegates are allowed to freely converse with other members of the committee. This time period is used by the delegates to lobby amongst the committee members. An Unmoderated Caucus is also used by delegates to work on working papers and Draft Resolutions.

TIME LIMIT ON GSL SPEECHES

All GSL speeches are by default set at 90 seconds but can be changed if required. Moderated caucuses are raised by delegates and it is, therefore, their duty to set the duration of the moderated caucus and the time allotted per speaker. When a Delegate exceeds the allotted time, the Dais may call the speaker to order.



RULES OF PROCEDURE

POINTS

Points are tools that can be used by delegates to increase their understanding of the happenings of the committee.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE:

This point is raised only when a delegate feels personal discomfort. Subsequently, the Chair will do everything in his power to address the discomfort.

POINT OF ORDER :

1. Factual Inaccuracy: If the speaker makes a factually incorrect statement.
 2. Logical Fallacy: If the speaker makes a logically fallacious statement.
- These will be accepted upon the discretion of the EB.

POINT OF INFORMATION:

This point is raised by delegates when they have a question about the delegate's speech.

POINT OF PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY:

This point is raised when a delegate has a question regarding the proceedings of the committee, such as a question regarding who the next speaker on the list is or if the EB is accepting chits at the moment.

PROCEDURAL VOTING

All delegates have one vote on a procedural motion. It is mandatory to vote on all procedural motions and abstentions are not allowed. Votes on procedural matters are expressed by simply raising their placards. A simple majority is required for a procedural motion to pass.

SUBSTANTIVE VOTING

Votes on Draft Resolutions, amendments, or motions that modify resolution content. All delegates have one vote and members may either vote Yes, No, or Abstain. Member States that have been declared as "Present and Voting" during roll call do not have the option to Abstain.



DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

A draft resolution is a document that contains all the issues that the committee wants to solve and the proposed solutions to those issues. It is the final culmination of the debate at the conference. It's usually completed and voted upon during the last day of the conference.

For each draft resolution, there are sponsors and signatories

1. Sponsors - The delegates who have contributed the most for the draft resolution and lead their group/bloc
2. Signatory - The delegates who are interested in seeing the draft resolution be tabled in the committee. Note: A delegate from a bloc can be a signatory of a resolution of another bloc. 2/3rd of a committee need to be signatories of a resolution for it to be displayed in committee

Clauses

There are two types of clauses in a draft resolution:

1. Pre-ambulatory Clauses - state all the issues that the committee wants to resolve on this issue. It may state reasons why the committee is working on this issue and highlight previous international actions on the issue.
2. Operative Clauses - state the solutions that the bloc of the resolution proposes to resolve the issue. The operative clauses should address the issues specified in the pre-ambulatory clauses.

For voting on a draft resolution, a “motion to table resolution [name of the resolution]” is raised. Once this motion passes, the sponsors will come up to the front and present the draft resolution. Following this, there may be points of information asked to the sponsors which they need to answer.



DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

Amendments

Following this, there are amendments to the resolution. An amendment is a statement that adds, deletes or changes an operative clause in a draft resolution. A delegate that raises an amendment needs to specify the type of amendment and what the amendment is by pointing out the precise article they want to amend. There are two types of amendments:

1. Friendly Amendment - the sponsors agree with the amendment and the change is made
2. Unfriendly Amendment - the sponsors disagree with the amendment. These amendments need to be voted upon in committee and there needs to be a 2/3rd majority for an unfriendly amendment to pass.

Note: If 2/3rds of a resolution has been amended, then the resolution will be scrapped entirely.

A sample draft resolution and the conventions for the format have been listed at the end of this document.



LETTER FROM THE BOARD OF EXECUTIVES

Dear Delegates,

It's a pleasure to have you. We will make sure you will have a memorable time with us, learn more than you expected, and also not regret being forced into participating by your mother.

We don't want to write this any more than you want to read this; so, go ahead and read words that will actually help you, research about your countries and surprise us with legalities.

PS: Please know your ROP before the start of the conference. Don't worry, we will explain it to you again on the first day.



INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

The **United Nations Environment Programme**, which was formed in 1972, following the historic Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment, is the lead agency of the United Nations in the field of environmental issues. Based in Nairobi, Kenya, UNEP aims to inspire and guide efforts globally toward human well-being and the protection of resources for future generations.

For more than 50 years, UNEP has been working with governments, civil society, and private sectors to address the key environmental issues such as restoration of the ozone layer, protection of marine environments, and promotion of sustainable and inclusive growth.

UNEP addresses the planetary crisis of **climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution**. It assists its 193 member states to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals through science, advocacy, and global partnerships and promotes a balanced and sustainable relationship with nature.

In the United Nations, a **mandate range** refers to the scope of responsibilities and activities assigned to the specific committee to address particular global issues, such as peacekeeping, development, or in this case, environmental protection.

UNEP's mandate encompasses a broad spectrum of essential issues, including:

Global Leadership and Policy Coordination: The UNEP promotes international collaboration on environmental issues and recommends policies to address global challenges. As well as that it provides strategic guidance and coordination for environmental programs across the UN system.



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Program Oversight and Resource Management: This includes reviewing regular reports to monitor the implementation of UN environmental programs as well as assessing the allocation and use of resources from the Environment Fund.

Monitoring and Addressing Environmental Challenges: Tracking global environmental trends to ensure governments address issues of international importance and evaluating the impact of environmental policies on developing countries and ensure alignment with their development priorities.

Scientific Engagement: Collaborate with international scientific and professional communities to enhance environmental knowledge and research, share data, etc.

The UNEP also focuses on key issues such as:

- Climate Change: Efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support climate adaptation, and implement the Paris Agreement.
- Biodiversity Conservation: Protect ecosystems, promote sustainable resource use, and facilitate the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- Pollution: Advocate for reducing pollution, managing chemicals, and promoting environmentally friendly economy practices.
- Sustainable Resource Management: Encourage sustainable practices in agriculture, forestry, and energy to balance economic growth with environmental protection and social equity.

UNEP is deeply committed to environmental sustainability through its comprehensive efforts to address the world's most pressing environmental challenges. By leading global initiatives on climate change, biodiversity conservation, and pollution reduction, UNEP supports countries in adopting sustainable practices that protect natural resources for future generations.



INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

UNEP plays a key role in implementing international agreements like the **Paris Agreement** on climate change and the **Convention on Biological Diversity**. Through its work on pollution and resource management, as well as fostering a circular economy, UNEP drives global efforts to create a sustainable world. Through initiatives like the **Global Chemicals Outlook**, UNEP supports the reduction of pollution and the management of hazardous substances.

Furthermore, it works with the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, particularly the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** related to climate action, clean water, and all life on land. By encouraging collaboration, collecting research, and mobilizing resources, UNEP remains committed to ensuring a sustainable and equitable future for all.



INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA

The agenda defines "**Assessing Global Progress Towards Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030**" and reflects on the United Nations aims to achieve sustainable development for 2030 in under circumstances of the second jeopardy. In 2015, these 17 interrelated goals were introduced by the United Nations as an appeal to all nations to eradicate poverty, safeguard the planet, and ensure peace and prosperity for all people. So far, progress toward the attainment of these goals has been variable; immense successes have been met in places with extraordinary glaring gaps. Progress-wise, some of those efforts are being muted by weak actions on global climate change and inequality.

Any way forward will, therefore, require acknowledging some interruptions that occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic period and increasing geopolitical tensions that distract attention from the real road toward sustainable development. Those challenges bring to the fore the very reason for a powerful multilateral response along creative thinking. It is only just, as we meet to review current progress, that we must re-calibrate our approaches, exchange our success stories and ensure accountability for our actions. Indeed, only an inclusive, transparent and action-oriented dialogue will enable us to steer the global community towards realising the promises of the SDGs, not simply as an aspiration, but as a transformative action for generations to come.

Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

The weather-deferred motives of climate change pose new challenges for the ecosystems as well as human society to resist such changes and also work towards moderating further damages wrought by it. UNEP's role lies at the forefront of stimulating discourse on climate resilience, carbon-reduction strategies, and transitioning into renewable energy sources.



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Adaptation: The emphasis is on constructing infrastructure and social systems adapted to withstand climate impacts such as sea tons, dire weather, and changing conditions in agricultural practice.

Mitigation: Reducing emissions, enhanced carbon sequestration, energy efficiency technologies, and the promotion of renewable energy sources to slow global

Biodiversity Conservation and Restoration

Across the world, ecosystems have come under various threats from habitat loss, deforestation, pollution, and unsustainable farming practices. Loss of biodiversity eviscerates ecosystem services vital for human survival, like clean air, water, food security, and disease regulation.

Conserving: Protect strongholds of existing ecosystems and biodiversity: concentrates on expansion and creation of protected areas: marine sanctuaries, wildlife reserves, and national parks.

Restorative processes: Takes on active rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems, like reforestation, and wetland restoration as well as species reintroduction programs.

Sustainable Management of Natural Resources

Appropriate and sustainable use and management of natural resources ensure their availability for future generations. UNEP has since supported the nations to adopt policies that will advance responsible extraction and consumption of resources like water, minerals, forests, and fisheries.

Water Security: Clean drinking water guaranteed, while adverse situations from pollution, droughts,⁹ and floods are considered and monitored.



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Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries: A balance is maintained between agricultural production and environmental protection, ensuring that ecosystems are not over-exploited into devastation.

Circular Economy: A shift from a linear economy (take, make, dispose) to an economy in which resources are reused, recycled, and regenerated to minimize waste and environmental destruction.

Disaster Preparedness and Ecosystem Resilience

Healthy ecosystems, such as mangroves and reefs, buffer the natural disasters, thereby reducing the vulnerability of natural hazards like hurricanes, floods, droughts, and wildfires.

Disaster risk reduction: encompasses all strategies to protect ecosystems and live communities from natural disasters and establish the means to recover, hence restoring the ecological balance.

Nature-based solutions pose as employing natural ecosystems such as wetlands, forests, and green infrastructure to lessen disaster impacts and protect communities.

Sustainable Urbanization and Green Infrastructure

Urban areas are expanding rapidly, and their environmental challenges are vast. A sustainable ecosystem by 2040 will heavily depend on how cities extend. Urban resilience consists of designing cities with energy-efficient, low-carbon, and resource-conscious features with integrated green spaces with ecosystems.

Green Infrastructure: Establishes motions for parks, green roofs, urban forests, and water management systems within urban planning, thus promoting the integration of all these.



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Sustainable Transport: Promotion of public transport, electric vehicles, and on-motorized transport, such as biking or walking, to reduce carbon emissions and pollution.

Smart Cities: Mirroring technology and innovation into urban systems to enhance efficiency and sustainability.

International Cooperation and Environmental Governance

Collective international action is needed to address environmental challenges. UNEP has a very important role in cooperation among nations to ensure the effective implementation of agreements such as the Paris Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Multilateral Environmental Agreements: these aim to strengthen the international frameworks as an instrument for the national governance of environmental protection and compliance with international obligations.

Funding and Technology Transfer: the flow of financial and technological resources from developed to developing countries that are required to move towards building resilience ecosystems in the global south.

Capacity Building: implementing knowledge sharing, training, and institutional support towards strengthening the ability of developing countries to deal and respond to environmental issues and challenges.



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The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by the United Nations in 2015, are a blueprint for achieving a better and more sustainable future for all. These 17 goals cover critical global challenges.

The SDGs are integrating social, economic, and environmental goals to create a sustainable and prosperous future. It deals with issues such as poverty, education, gender inequality, and climate change and calls for collective action from nations, businesses, and individuals to reduce inequalities and safeguard the planet.

Beyond their goals, the SDGs represent global cooperation, offering a transparent framework for accountability and progress. Their inclusive approach ensures no one is left behind in the pursuit of shared solutions.

The 17 SDGs and Global Progress:

- No Poverty (SDG 1): Extreme poverty has reduced globally, but uneven progress is noted in Sub-Saharan Africa and in areas experiencing conflict. The COVID-19 pandemic rolled back many years of efforts in reducing poverty.
- Zero Hunger (SDG 2): Hunger is increasing because of war, climate change, and economic shocks. Over 800 million people suffer from food insecurity globally.
- Good Health and Well-being (SDG 3): Improved life expectancy. Significant achievements have been achieved in eliminating diseases, particularly malaria and HIV, yet healthcare inequalities persist. A pandemic did expose some structural weaknesses in the healthcare delivery system.



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- Quality Education (SDG 4): Access has increased to quality education for all, though still millions of children out of school, especially girls are mostly in the developing world mainly due to poverty, war, or discrimination.
- Gender Equality (SDG 5): Many aspects are showing positive progress, such as in education and political representation. However, gender-based violence, wage gaps, and systemic discrimination continue to prevail across the globe.
- Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6): While billions have access to clean water, over 2 billion people still lack access to safe drinking water and sanitation, which worsens health crises.
- Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7): Renewable energy is on an expansionary trend; yet, energy access remains rather uneven with millions without access to electricity, mostly from rural settings.
- Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8): Economic growth has ensured millions of people leave poverty lines, yet wage inequality and disparity in employment opportunities have proven to be a problem.
- Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure (SDG 9): Technology advances that have brought progress so far, yet the modern infrastructural gap is vast with developing countries.
- Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10): Global inequality has worsened, with wealth concentrated in a few hands while marginalized communities face systemic disadvantages.
- Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11): Urbanization has brought innovation and growth, but slum populations and unsustainable city designs are a worry.
- Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12): Sustainable practices are increasing, but global resource consumption far exceeds the planet's capacity, threatening ecological balance.



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- Climate Action (SDG 13): Efforts to combat climate change are accelerating, but greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise, threatening global warming limits.
- Life Below Water (SDG 14): Marine ecosystems face degradation due to pollution, overfishing, and climate change. Progress in ocean protection is insufficient.
- Life on Land (SDG 15): Deforestation, biodiversity loss, and land degradation remain critical challenges, with insufficient action to protect ecosystems.
- Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions (SDG 16): Conflicts and governance failures undermine peace and stability; human rights abuses and weak institutions prevail in many regions.
- Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17): International cooperation is increasing, but funding gaps and geopolitical tensions impede progress.

Contributions of Key Countries to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

Sweden:

Sweden is a forerunner in sustainable development. It has mainstreamed the SDGs into its national policies and is pushing forward clean energy, gender equality, and climate action. Its commitment to renewable energy sources, where over 54% of its energy comes from renewables, makes it a global model for decarbonization. Sweden's ambitious goals and technological innovation significantly contribute to SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) and SDG 13 (Climate Action).



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Germany:

Germany is quite crucial in meeting SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), as it concentrates on green technology and energy transition ("Energiewende"). Being one of the world's leading economies, its investments and reduction of carbon emissions inspire and encourage other nations to do likewise. Germany prioritizes education and healthcare, and thus reinforces the SDGs 4 (Quality Education) and 3 (Good Health and Well-being).

India:

India is taking a transformative step in the fight against poverty and in increasing access to clean energy. Programs such as the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, providing clean cooking gas to rural homes, and major solar energy initiatives, are steps toward achieving SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy). A country as populous as India will have an enormous impact globally if it achieves these goals.

China:

China is critical to achieving global SDGs due to its scale and influence. It leads the world in renewable energy production, contributing significantly to SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) and SDG 13 (Climate Action). However, challenges remain, particularly in addressing inequalities and improving labor standards (SDG 10). Its Belt and Road Initiative also presents opportunities for SDG 9 but must balance development with environmental sustainability.

United States:

As a global economy, the U.S. holds potentially immense opportunities to drive changes for the SDGs. Innovations and funding in technology are SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure). As a historical contributor to climate emissions globally, its leadership on SDG 13 (Climate Action) is critical.



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Japan:

Japan's technological advancements and commitment to innovation drive progress in SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure). Its disaster resilience strategies, informed by frequent natural calamities, are valuable contributions to SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).

South Africa:

South Africa is one of the leading nations in the effort to address inequality and clean energy in line with SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy). The projects in renewable energy, besides improvements in education and healthcare access, demonstrate a strong commitment towards inclusive and sustainable development.

International Mechanisms:

i. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Established in 1992, the UNFCCC is a key international treaty that coordinates global efforts to combat climate change. It provides a framework for countries to collectively address climate issues through mitigation, adaptation, and financial support. The UNFCCC organises annual Conferences of the Parties (COPs), where nations review progress, set new goals, and negotiate international agreements, such as the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. These meetings are critical for the ongoing development of climate policies that aim to address global warming and its far-reaching impacts on ecosystems.



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2. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

The IPCC, established in 1988, is the leading international body responsible for assessing the science related to climate change. Through its reports, the IPCC offers comprehensive assessments of current climate conditions, forecasts for future scenarios, and policy options for mitigation and adaptation. These reports, based on extensive scientific data, are a foundation for climate-related decision-making, offering governments the knowledge needed to address the effects of climate change on ecosystems, economies, and societies.

3. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), launched in 1993, focuses on the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources. This treaty plays a pivotal role in global efforts to preserve biodiversity and promote ecosystems that are essential to human well-being and climate resilience. The CBD encourages countries to develop national strategies that integrate biodiversity conservation with broader sustainable development objectives.

4 . Global Climate Finance Mechanisms

International financial mechanisms like the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) provide crucial funding for climate action in developing countries. The GCF, established under the UNFCCC, helps finance large-scale projects that promote low-emission and climate-resilient development. Similarly, the GEF funds initiatives related to biodiversity, climate change, and land degradation. These mechanisms play a critical role in ensuring that developing nations have the financial resources needed to implement sustainable solutions and respond to environmental crises.



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5. International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

IRENA is an intergovernmental organization that supports countries in their transition to sustainable energy systems. It promotes the adoption of renewable energy technologies, including solar, wind, and hydro, which are essential for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating climate change. IRENA's work is critical in helping nations reduce their reliance on fossil fuels and shift toward energy systems that are both environmentally friendly and resilient to future climate impacts.

6. New Urban Agenda (NUA)

The New Urban Agenda (NUA), adopted in 2016 at the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, provides a global framework for fostering sustainable urbanisation. It emphasises the importance of resilient urban infrastructure, green spaces, and disaster preparedness, particularly in light of the challenges posed by climate change. The NUA promotes urban planning that enhances cities' capacity to cope with environmental shocks, contributing to both sustainable development and the protection of ecosystems in urban environments.

7. Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR)

Adopted in 2015, the Sendai Framework is a global agreement that aims to reduce disaster risks and enhance resilience to both natural and human-made disasters. It emphasises understanding risk, strengthening disaster governance, and investing in risk reduction measures. The framework encourages preparedness for disaster events such as floods, droughts, storms, and heatwaves, which are increasingly tied to climate change. The Sendai Framework serves as a vital global strategy to reduce the impact of climate-related disasters on human populations and ecosystems.



SDG 1 : No Poverty

- International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (1966), Article 11, ICESCR: It highlights the right to an adequate standard of living including food, clothing, and housing, and calls upon governments to take steps in order to bring about the said rights.
- ILO Social Protection Floors Recommendation (No. 202, 2012): Requires states to create systems of universal social protection to counter poverty.

SDG 2: Zero Hunger

United Nations Agreement on Agriculture (WTO Agreement, 1995): Legislation controlling subsidy to agriculture and agitating fair trade would lead to ample global food security;

International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (2004): Makes mandatory equal and fair benefit sharing from the use of plant genetic resources critical for sustainable agriculture.

SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being

WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (2005): Requires parties to adopt measures reducing tobacco consumption and minimising health effects.

International Health Regulations (2005): Requires states to ensure they have capabilities to find, evaluate, and reply to public-health threats.

SDG 4: Quality Education

Convention against Discrimination in Education: UNESCO, 1960: Parties undertake to eliminate any exclusion or discrimination on the basis of education, concerning race, sex, or income status, so that all the individuals can enjoy the benefits of an equal access to quality education.



CASE STUDIES

Right to Education (Art. 13, ICESCR): Illustrates that primary education shall be compulsory and freely accessible while post-secondary education should be made generally accessible.

SDG 5: Gender Equality

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW, 1979) makes states legally committed to ending gender-discriminatory laws, education, employment, and political representation.

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 1995- These are non binding but are utilized in directing national policies on gender equality.

SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, 1992- Overhauls water management processes across boundaries.

UNGA Resolution 64/292, paraphrased 2010 - It calls water and sanitation a defectless and inalienable right, thereby obliging states to an assured service at all times.

SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

Paris Agreement (2015) - Relevant towards furthering this objective by very largely helping to achieve transitions towards cleaner energy in order to cut down greenhouse gas emissions.

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

ILO conventions:

Convention No 182 (1999) - Intolerant of the worst forms of child labor

Convention No 138 (1973) - Defines minimum employment age

Convention No 87 - Calls to safe right-to free association



CASE STUDIES

SDG 13: Climate Action

Paris Agreement (2015) - Behaves as a legal mandate for each State Party to present plans of action, report emissions, and comply with collective, internationally-agreed measures so as to limit the increase of global temperature urgency."

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC, 1992) - Gives all-embracing legal structure for global climate governance.

SDG 14: Life Below Water

UNCLOS (1982) - UN Convention on Law of the Sea: In legal terms, this convention is the principal instrument that will impact marine conservation, pollution prevention, and sustainable fisheries.

Port State Measures Agreement (2016): This treaty aims at dealing with illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

SDG 15: Life on Land

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD, 1992): Nations shall conserve biodiversity, promote sustainable use, and share benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources.

UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD, 1994): The formation of a legally binding agreement to initiate action against land degradation and desertification in states.

SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (1998): This statute was finally ratified by many nations on 1 July 2002.

UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC, 2003): This particular convention addresses the prosecution of crimes with impunity.



CASE STUDIES

COP29: A Mixed Bag of Results

COP29, held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from November 11-22, 2024, presented a complex picture of progress and setbacks in the global climate action agenda. While the operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund marked a significant step forward, several critical challenges hindered the conference's overall success.

One of the most contentious issues surrounding the Loss and Damage Fund centered on the eligibility criteria for receiving financial assistance. Disagreements arose among countries, particularly between developed and developing nations, regarding which countries should be considered "vulnerable" and therefore eligible for funding. Developing countries, particularly Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), argued for broad eligibility criteria to ensure that the most vulnerable nations receive the support they need. However, some developed countries advocated for more stringent criteria, fearing that a broad definition could lead to a flood of claims and unsustainable financial burdens. These debates highlight the complex legal and political considerations involved in operationalizing the Fund. International law, national legislation, and international human rights law will all play crucial roles in shaping the legal framework for the Fund, ensuring equitable access to funding and addressing the specific needs of vulnerable communities.

Furthermore, debates arose over the sources of funding for the Loss and Damage Fund. Developing countries called for new and additional sources of finance, emphasizing that existing climate finance mechanisms should not be diverted to fund loss and damage. However, developed countries were reluctant to commit to new funding sources, preferring to explore existing financial mechanisms or mobilize private sector investment. This highlights the importance of private sector engagement in climate finance.



CASE STUDIES

The private sector can play a crucial role in mobilizing capital for climate action through innovative financial instruments such as green bonds, impact investing, and sustainable finance initiatives. However, creating an enabling environment for private sector investment requires clear policy frameworks, incentives, and regulations to ensure that private sector actions align with climate goals.

Beyond the Loss and Damage Fund, COP29 witnessed limited progress on several other critical issues. The phasing out of fossil fuels, a crucial step in limiting global warming, faced strong resistance from major fossil fuel producers. While some countries announced new commitments to reduce emissions, the overall ambition level of collective climate action remains insufficient to limit global warming to 1.5°C, the ambitious target set by the Paris Agreement.

The issue of climate finance continued to be a major point of contention. Developed countries, despite their historical responsibility for greenhouse gas emissions, have fallen short of their commitment to mobilize \$100 billion per year in climate finance to developing countries. This lack of adequate and predictable funding hinders developing countries' ability to invest in climate mitigation and adaptation measures, exacerbating existing inequalities.

While governments remained the primary actors responsible for climate action, there was a growing understanding that the scale of the challenge necessitates a multi-stakeholder approach. This led to increased dialogue and collaboration between governments, businesses, and civil society organizations. While some discussions explored innovative financing mechanisms involving private sector investment in climate solutions, such as green bonds and carbon markets, there was no evidence of governments explicitly "asking" or "expecting" NGOs and private companies to fund climate change efforts in lieu of their own commitments.



CASE STUDIES

Instead, the focus was on fostering partnerships and leveraging the resources and expertise of various actors to accelerate climate action, such as through public-private partnerships for renewable energy development, technology transfer, and climate resilience building.

In conclusion, COP29 presented a mixed bag of results. While the operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund represents a significant achievement, the conference fell short on several critical fronts. The lack of sufficient ambition in emission reduction targets, the inadequate provision of climate finance, and the persistent inequities in climate action pose significant challenges to the global effort to address the climate crisis. Addressing these challenges requires a multi-stakeholder approach that involves governments, the private sector, civil society, and international institutions.

UNFCCC 2017 - COP 23

COP23, held in Bonn, Germany, in 2017, aimed to advance the implementation of the Paris Agreement. A key outcome of the conference was the launch of the Talanoa Dialogue, a global conversation designed to increase ambition for climate action. This participatory process sought to foster a more inclusive and transparent dialogue on how to enhance Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and accelerate the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

While the Talanoa Dialogue was a positive step forward, it also highlighted several challenges. Progress on key issues such as the provision of climate finance to developing countries remained limited. Developed countries faced pressure from developing nations to significantly increase their financial commitments to support climate action in developing countries. However, developed countries were reluctant to commit to new and additional funding sources, leading to ongoing disagreements and hindering progress on this critical issue.



CASE STUDIES

The role of the private sector in mobilizing climate finance was also a key area of discussion at COP23. While the private sector has the potential to play a significant role in financing the transition to a low-carbon economy, creating an enabling environment for private sector investment requires clear policy frameworks, incentives, and regulations.

Furthermore, concerns were raised about the pace of action on climate change. While the Paris Agreement set ambitious goals, many countries were not taking sufficient action to meet their commitments. This lack of urgency in implementing climate action threatened to undermine the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement and increase the risks of catastrophic climate change.

Deep divisions among developed and developing countries on critical issues such as climate finance, technology transfer, and differentiation of responsibilities continued to hinder progress. Developing countries consistently called for greater support from developed countries to help them adapt to climate change and transition to low-carbon economies. However, developed countries often resisted calls for increased financial commitments and sought to avoid taking on greater responsibilities. These persistent divisions underscored the need for greater solidarity and cooperation among nations to effectively address the climate crisis.

Finland vs. South Sudan

A comparative analysis of Finland and South Sudan reveals stark contrasts in their climate change trajectories and their capacities to address the challenges they face. Finland, a developed country with a strong commitment to renewable energy and advanced climate policies, has made significant strides in reducing its greenhouse gas emissions. The country has invested heavily in renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar power, and has implemented comprehensive policies to promote energy efficiency and sustainable transportation.



CASE STUDIES

Finland has also demonstrated a strong commitment to climate adaptation, investing in climate-resilient infrastructure and implementing measures to protect its vulnerable ecosystems.

In contrast, South Sudan, a developing country heavily reliant on natural resources and grappling with poverty, conflict, and instability, is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Extreme weather events such as floods, droughts, and heatwaves have had devastating consequences for the country's agriculture, food security, and livelihoods. South Sudan faces significant challenges in adapting to climate change, including limited financial and technological resources, weak infrastructure, and ongoing security challenges.

This stark contrast highlights the significant global inequalities in addressing climate change. Developed countries like Finland have the resources and technological capacities to mitigate their emissions and adapt to climate change, while developing countries like South Sudan are often left to bear the brunt of the impacts with limited support. Bridging this gap requires a significant increase in international cooperation, including the provision of adequate and predictable climate finance, technology transfer, and capacity building support to developing countries.

The role of non-state actors is crucial in supporting climate action in both developed and developing countries. In Finland, the private sector has played a significant role in the development and deployment of renewable energy technologies. NGOs and civil society organizations have also played a crucial role in advocating for strong climate policies and mobilizing public support for climate action. In South Sudan, NGOs are playing a critical role in providing humanitarian assistance, supporting community-based adaptation efforts, and advocating for the rights of vulnerable communities.



CASE STUDIES

The Impact of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

The Sendai Framework aims to substantially reduce disaster risk and build the resilience of nations and communities. While progress has been made in some areas, implementation varies significantly across countries. Developed nations with robust infrastructure and early warning systems generally fare better than developing countries, which often lack resources and face greater vulnerabilities. The role of non-state actors is crucial, with NGOs playing a vital role in community-based disaster risk reduction initiatives, providing essential support and local knowledge. However, challenges remain, including limited financial resources, inadequate data collection, and weak coordination between different levels of government. Effective early warning systems are critical, but their effectiveness depends on factors such as access to technology, community awareness, and the capacity to respond effectively to warnings.

Assessing the Effectiveness of the Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement has spurred global action on climate change, with many countries submitting Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). However, the adequacy and ambition of these NDCs vary significantly. While some countries have made substantial commitments, others have fallen short. The mobilization of climate finance remains a major challenge, with developed countries struggling to meet their pledges to support developing countries. The impact of COVID-19 has been mixed, with some countries using recovery packages to invest in green infrastructure, while others have prioritized short-term economic gains. International law and national legislation play a crucial role in supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement, but their effectiveness varies depending on the strength of legal frameworks and enforcement mechanisms.



CASE STUDIES

The Role of the G20 in Promoting Sustainable Development

The G20 plays a significant role in global governance and can exert considerable influence on sustainable development. Its initiatives on climate change, infrastructure development, and poverty reduction have the potential to make a substantial impact. However, the effectiveness of G20 actions varies, with some initiatives achieving significant progress while others fall short of expectations. Accountability and transparency mechanisms within the G20 remain a concern, with limited avenues for civil society engagement and scrutiny of member countries' actions. Civil society organizations play a crucial role in advocating for ambitious and equitable G20 policies, holding governments accountable for their commitments, and mobilizing public support for sustainable development.

The Impact of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

The UNSDCF provides a valuable framework for countries to integrate the SDGs into their national development plans and strategies. Many countries have made efforts to align their national policies with the SDGs, but the level of integration varies significantly. Some countries have successfully mainstreamed the SDGs into their development planning processes, while others face challenges in translating the SDGs into concrete actions and measurable outcomes. UN agencies play a crucial role in supporting countries in implementing the UNSDCF, providing technical assistance, capacity building, and financial resources. However, challenges remain, including limited financial resources, weak coordination among stakeholders, and insufficient data and monitoring mechanisms to track progress towards the SDGs.



QARMA (QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER)

1. What strategies and actions are proposed to enhance ecosystem resilience and address these challenges?
2. How will these strategies be implemented, and who will be responsible for execution?
3. How can we measure and report progress more accurately to ensure data reliability and transparency?
4. What role have international partnerships played in advancing SDG implementation? How can they be strengthened?
5. Are current funding mechanisms sufficient to support SDG targets? If not, how can funding be increased?
6. How can we ensure equitable distribution of resources, especially in least developed and conflict-affected countries?
7. What strategies can better integrate climate resilience into the SDG agenda, especially for vulnerable nations?
8. How can technology be leveraged to fast-track progress in areas like education, healthcare, and energy access?
9. How can countries address emerging challenges, such as geopolitical conflicts and resource scarcity to protect progress toward the SDGs?
10. What existing international agreements or frameworks are relevant, and are any new frameworks or agreements needed?
11. How will the effectiveness of the proposed measures be monitored and evaluated?
12. How will measures ensure sustainability and have a long-term impact?



DRAFT RESOLUTION

Title of Draft Resolution

Committee Name

Committee Agenda

Sponsors: (maximum number provided by Chair)

Signatories: (minimum number provided by Chair)

Preambulatory Clauses

Preambulatory Clause Operative Word Preambulatory clause ,

Operative Clauses

Operative Clause Operative Word ... operative clause:

- Subpart 1,
- Subpart 2;

Notes:

List of clause keywords:<https://www.wisemee.com/preambulatory-and-operative-clauses/>

- You must ensure the key word is under the mandate of the committee (ex. GA committees can't use "demands")

There will be a minimum number of preambulatory and operative clauses provided

There is no maximum number of subparts for an operative clause



DRAFT RESOLUTION

Exemplar Draft Resolution

Resolution GA/3/1.1

General Assembly Third Committee

Sponsors: United States, Austria and Italy

Signatories: Greece, Tajikistan, Japan, Canada, Mali, the Netherlands and Gabon

Topic: "Strengthening UN coordination of humanitarian assistance in complex emergencies"

The General Assembly,

Reminding all nations of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, which recognizes the inherent dignity, equality and inalienable rights of all global citizens, [use commas to separate preambulatory clauses]

Reaffirming its Resolution 33/1996 of 25 July 1996, which encourages Governments to work with UN bodies aimed at improving the coordination and effectiveness of humanitarian assistance,

Noting with satisfaction the past efforts of various relevant UN bodies and nongovernmental organizations,

Stressing the fact that the United Nations faces significant financial obstacles and is in need of reform, particularly in the humanitarian realm,

1. Encourages all relevant agencies of the United Nations to collaborate more closely with countries at the grassroots level to enhance the carrying out of relief efforts; [use semicolons to separate operative clauses]

2. Urges member states to comply with the goals of the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs to streamline efforts of humanitarian aid;

3. Requests that all nations develop rapid deployment forces to better enhance the coordination of relief efforts of humanitarian assistance in complex emergencies;

4. Calls for the development of a United Nations Trust Fund that encourages voluntary donations from the private transnational sector to aid in funding the implementation of rapid deployment forces;

5. Stresses the continuing need for impartial and objective information on the political, economic and social situations and events of all countries;

6. Calls upon states to respond quickly and generously to consolidated appeals for humanitarian assistance; and

7. Requests the expansion of preventive actions and assurance of post-conflict assistance through reconstruction and development. [end resolutions with a period]

<https://bestdelegate.com/model-un-made-easy-how-to-write-a-resolution/>



FURTHER READING SITES

<https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

<https://sdgs.un.org/>

<https://ourworldindata.org/sdgs>

<https://www.ipcc.ch/>

<https://www.wri.org/>

<https://www.thegef.org/>

<https://www.oecd.org/en/topics/policy-issues/sustainable-development-goals-sdgs.html>